Amendments To The Specification:

• *Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10 line 12 of the originally filed application, to read as follows*:

At least a portion of the open spaces or openings between struts in stent 10 form asymmetrical cell spaces 40. A cell space or geometric cell is an empty region on the surface of stent 10, completely surrounded by one or a combination of stent struts, including expansion struts 28, connecting struts 38, or joining struts 30. Asymmetrical cell spaces 40 are cell spaces which have no geometrical symmetry i.e. no rotation, reflection, combination rotation and reflection or other symmetry. Asymmetrical cell spaces 40 have an asymmetrical geometric configuration.

• *Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12 line 23 of the originally filed application, to read as follows*:

FIG. 3A and 3B show a schematic illustration of a stent design according to the present invention in an unexpanded and expanded state respectively. The design is depicted as a flat projection, as if stent 10 were cut lengthwise parallel to its longitudinal axis and flattened out. The connecting struts 38 consist of first and second linear sections 54 and 56 forming slant angle 58 at pivot point 60. An asymmetrical cell space or opening 40 is formed by expansion strut pairs 32, connecting struts 38 and joining struts 30. Multiple interlocking asymmetrical cell spaces or openings 40 make up the design pattern and pattern of openings.

• *Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 17 line 1 of the originally filed application, to read as follows*:

Other arrangements of reenforcement expansion columns 86, such as providing reenforcement expansion columns 86 only on the ends of the stent, only on one end, or at multiple locations throughout the length of the stent can also be used and fall within the scope of the present invention. Providing a reenforcement expansion column only on one end of the stent will result in the two ends having different degrees of flexibility. A taper can also be programmed into the reenforced stent 10 by shortening expansion struts 28 and reenforcement expansion struts 90 in appropriate expansion columns 24 and 86.

• *Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15 line 3 of the originally filed application, to read as follows*:

Figures 5A and 5C show a second embodiment of the present invention in which the stent 10 in its expanded form has a gradual taper from proximal end 12 to distal end 14. In FIG. 5A, the shaded segments 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82 and 84 of expansion struts 28 represent regions of expansion struts 28 to be removed. As shown schematically in FIG. 5C, removal of the shaded segments 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82 and 84 provides stent 10 with a gradual taper when expanded with distal end 14 having a smaller expanded diameter than proximal end 12. The degree of shortening of the expanded diameter of the stent 10 at a given expansion column 24 will be proportional to the length of the removed segment 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, or 84 at that expansion column 24. In the expanded stent 10 the shortened expansion struts 28 will have a shortened component along the circumference of the stent resulting in a shortened circumference and diameter. The tapered diameter portion can be positioned anywhere along the length of stent 10, and the tapering can be made more or less gradual by removing appropriately larger or smaller portions of the expansion struts 28 in a given expansion column 24. <u>The majority of the length of the stent is tapered.</u>

• *Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9 line 5 of the originally filed application, to read as follows*:

Stent 10 is constructed of two to fifty or more expansion columns <u>also referred to as annular elements</u> or rings 24 connected together by interspersed connecting strut columns 26. The first column on the proximal end 12 and the last column on the distal end 14 of stent 10 are expansion columns 24.